

Monday, Sept. 28

COVID is having an effect on the Nov. 3 general election in that voting by mail is an option for those who don't want to make the trip to the polls. On Election Day, the polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Scituate High School. All voting booths will be sanitized; masks and social distancing will be required.

Town Clerk Kathy Gardner said that voter-requested ballots cannot be returned at the polls on Election Day but can be dropped off at her office or in the drop box at Town Hall. Mailed ballots must be postmarked by 8 p.m. on Nov. 3. There are instructions with each mailed ballot but most importantly, the ballot envelope must be signed. Those who mail their ballots cannot vote in person on Election Day so voters should think about whether they want to vote in person before requesting a ballot by mail.

Detailed information is available on the Town Clerk's page at [scituatema.gov/town clerk](https://scituatema.gov/town-clerk). Click on the red banner at the top of the page.

The last day to register to vote is Oct. 24. The last day to request a mailed ballot is Oct. 28. Early voting at Town Hall starts Oct. 17 during regular business hours.

Town Administrator Jim Boudreau reported that since last Tuesday there have been 10 new COVID cases for Scituate. Five of those were out-of-state college students. He said Scituate has seen rising cases for three weeks in a row. The town is now yellow on the state map along with Hingham and Duxbury. Boudreau said the 14-day positivity rate for Scituate is 1.77 percent. If that percentage gets into the high two percent range then the town may need to reimpose some restrictions.

He noted that the virus is still very active and urged residents to maintain social distancing, wash hands and wear masks. He said if citizens like going to stores, parks and having businesses and schools open, then they need to follow the rules. If someone is not feeling well, they should stay home and get tested.

The outdoor watering ban is still in effect. Southeastern Massachusetts is in a severe drought. The Scituate reservoir is now down to 29.46 percent. Usage over the past week was 731,000 gallons a day up from 677,000 the previous week.

Residents need to conserve water and not put it on their lawns. Hand-held watering cans are only allowed from 5 p.m. to 9 a.m.

Cedar Point sewer construction project has started.
Pedestrians need to be careful and follow directions.

Construction of the Cole Parkway Marina piling project is beginning and will replace the current mooring system. In early October, a portion of Cole Parkway will be cordoned off as a staging area. There will be changes in parking and traffic patterns. There will be a map on scituatema.gov showing the parkway changes by the end of the week.

Boudreau said he is less optimistic about being able to work with Cohasset on sewerage North Scituate.

Cohasset wants to pause on the regional project until they investigate the needs of their own town. He said he has directed the DPW to revise plans for sewerage North Scituate so the town can move forward with or without Cohasset.

Supt. of Schools William Burkhead said there have been four COVID cases at the schools since opening day on Sept. 16. The Medical Advisory Committee is on top of the situation. The state Mobile Rapid Response Team said Scituate has not reached the threshold for them to be employed at this time.

Burkhead asked all community members to partner with the schools by practicing social distancing and mask wearing. He noted that what happens outside of school is now brought into the schools. The school department held a panel forum last week where they answered questions and shared accurate information on the COVID situation.

Fall athletic schedules can be found at scituate.k12.ma.us

Burkhead said the USDA has extended a waiver offering free breakfast and lunch to all students through Dec. 31. Anyone with questions should contact David Stevens, food service director, via email at: Dstevens@scit.org